GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5434
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
TRANSGRESSION OF MARITIME BOUNDARY
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is transgressing India`s maritime boundary in Arabian Sea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have since raised this issue on some international forum; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)& (b) The India-Pakistan maritime boundary in the Arabian Sea has not been formally delimited. On certain occasions fishermen from both India and Pakistan have been transgressing into the other`s waters.

Indian naval forces monitor all activities in the Arabian Sea that have a bearing on India`s security.

(c)-(e) Pakistan insists that the demarcation of the land boundary in Sir Creek must be completed before the delimitation of the India-Pakistan maritime boundary in the Arabian Sea can begin. Government have proposed to Pakistan that pending the formalization of the land boundary in the Sir Creek, delimitation of the India-Pakistan maritime boundary from seawards by commencing at the Exclusive Economic Zone limit and proceeding landwards may be considered.

Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of India-Pakistan relations, Government are committed to resolving all outstanding issues peacefully, through direct bilateral approaches.